

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

USSALT TWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF MARCH 23, 1978
(SALT TWO-1666)

1. THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR
EARLE AT SALT TWO MEETING OF MARCH 23, 1978:

- STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EARLE
- MARCH 23, 1978

MR. MINISTER:

- I

TODAY I WILL RETURN TO THE SUBJECT OF ADVANCE
NOTIFICATION OF ICBM LAUNCHES AS DEALT WITH IN ARTICLE
XVI OF THE TREATY.

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ON JANUARY 27, IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE REMAINING
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SIDES, THE UNITED STATES MODIFIED
IN A SIGNIFICANT WAY ITS PROPOSAL PERTAINING TO THE ISSUE
OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ICBM LAUNCHES IN ORDER TO TAKE
INTO ACCOUNT FURTHER THE VIEWS OF THE SOVIET UNION. IN

PARTICULAR, THE UNITED STATES MADE A REVISED PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION THOSE PLANNED SINGLE ICBM LAUNCHES FROM DESIGNATED TEST RANGES WHICH ARE NOT PLANNED TO EXTEND BEYOND THE NATIONAL TERRITORY OF THE SIDE CONDUCTING THE LAUNCHES. IN ADDITION, RESPONDING TO ANOTHER SOVIET CONCERN, THE UNITED STATES HAS AGREED TO USE THE TERM "LAUNCH" IN PLACE OF "FLIGHT-TEST" IN ARTICLE XVI. THE SIDES HAVE ALSO AGREED ON LANGUAGE FOR A COMMON UNDERSTANDING TO THIS ARTICLE WHICH INCORPORATES REFERENCES TO EXISTING AGREEMENTS, AS INITIALLY PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET DELEGATION.

- III

THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE PURPOSE OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, AS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE XVI, IS THE ENHANCEMENT OF CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE SIDES AND THE CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF OUR MUTUAL DETERMINATION TO AVOID POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR EACH ICBM LAUNCH TO BE THE SUBJECT OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. NEVERTHELESS, THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE, TO EXEMPT A MAJOR CATEGORY OF ICBM LAUNCHES, NAMELY SINGLE LAUNCHES FROM DESIGNATED TEST RANGES WHICH ARE NOT PLANNED TO EXTEND BEYOND NATIONAL TERRITORY. THIS MODIFICATION

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WOULD EXEMPT FROM THE OBLIGATION OF NOTIFICATION A MAJOR PORTION OF THE ICBM LAUNCHES OF THE SOVIET UNION. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, REDUCE THE NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS REQUIRED OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE ALL OF ITS PLANNED ICBM LAUNCHES EXTEND BEYOND ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY.

THE UNITED STATES REMAINS CONVINCED THAT EACH LAUNCH FROM AN ICBM LAUNCHER DEPLOYMENT AREA AS WELL AS MULTIPLE LAUNCHES FROM DESIGNATED TEST RANGES SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, REGARDLESS OF THE INTENDED IMPACT AREA. THE PROPOSAL OF THE UNITED STATES PROVIDES AN OBJECTIVE STANDARD WHICH ELIMINATES THE POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDING IN THIS REGARD. IT REMAINS THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE OBLIGATION FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ICBM LAUNCHES SHOULD NOT REST UPON A SUBJECTIVE OR DISCRETIONARY BASIS.

- IV

MR. MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT ITS

PROPOSAL SET FORTH ON JANUARY 27 PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR
RESOLVING THE ISSUE OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ICBM
LAUNCHES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO A POSITIVE SOVIET RESPONSE
WHICH WILL ENABLE THE SIDES TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE. EARLE

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